FACT SHEET

EPA Region 7

Ogallala Ground Water Site
Operable Unit #2
Ogallala, Nebraska

July 2001

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is asking for comments on a recommended action to clean up contaminated soil at the Tip Top Dry Cleaners, 116 W. 5th Street, Ogallala, Nebraska. This is part of the Ogallala Ground Water Superfund site known as Operable Unit #2.

BACKGROUND

The Nebraska Department of Health discovered contamination in Ogallala's water supply wells during routine sampling in 1989. The city has since installed a new well field.

The Ogallala Ground Water site was placed on the National Priorities List in December 1994, making it eligible for cleanup under EPA's Superfund program. Five potential sources of ground water contamination, one of which is the Tip Top Dry Cleaners, have been identified. Several actions have already been taken to address contamination at other parts of the site.

THE CONTAMINATION

Soil contaminated with perchloroethylene (PCE), and some trichloroethene (TCE), has been identified in an area west of the Tip Top building. The PCE-contaminated soil is

Information Session and Public Comment Period

EPA will hold an information session:

Tuesday, July 31, 2001
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Ogallala City Hall
411 E. 2nd Street
Ogallala, Nebraska

EPA representatives will be available to answer your questions, one-on-one. You may attend the session at your convenience between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

EPA is also asking for your comments on the cleanup recommendation for Operable Unit #2. Comments will be taken through August 13, 2001.

Please send your comments to:

Debbie Kring
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA, Region 7
Office of External Programs
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
E-mail: kring.debbie@epa.gov

considered one source of the ground water contamination that extends southeast from the Tip Top Dry Cleaners to beyond East G Street. Reducing the levels of PCE in the soil is an important step in addressing the ground water contamination.

PCE and TCE are chlorinated hydrocarbon solvents. PCE is commonly used in dry-cleaning fluid, spot removers, and degreasers. TCE is used as a degreaser and is also a degradation product of PCE.

THE RECOMMENDATION

EPA evaluated several different technologies that could be used to clean up the soil. A detailed discussion of the evaluation is available in a document called the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis. Based on this evaluation, EPA is recommending that the contaminated soil at the Tip Top Dry Cleaners be cleaned up using a soil vapor extraction system (SVE). The public is asked to comment on this recommendation.

The SVE technology has been used successfully at many Superfund sites in the United States. It is a relatively simple process that physically separates the contaminants from the soil. By applying a vacuum through a system of underground wells, contaminants are pulled to the surface as vapor or gas. The extracted vapor may be treated, if needed, before being released to the air.

If SVE is used at Operable Unit #2, it is estimated that four wells will need to be installed. In addition to the wells, the system consists of a blower, motor and separator. This equipment may be installed in a small building**.** If a building is necessary, it will be located east of the Tip Top building. Some noise may be associated with the operation of the SVE system.

It is estimated that using SVE would achieve the soil cleanup goals in about a year and cost approximately $100,000. The cost of the cleanup will be paid for with Superfund money.

WHAT ABOUT THE GROUND WATER?

EPA also intends to address the PCE-contaminated ground water associated with the Tip Top Dry Cleaners. Before the end of the year, EPA will initiate a study to determine if the PCE contamination can be reduced using sodium permanganate, an oxidizing agent. If the study shows that introducing the oxidizing agent into the ground water reduces the PCE, EPA will evaluate it as one of the options to be considered to address the entire area of PCE-contaminated ground water. The public will be notified and asked to comment on a ground water cleanup method in the future.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review the Administrative Record File, which contains the EE/CA and other site-related documents. The Administrative Record File is available at the following locations:

Goodall City Library
203 W. A Street
Ogallala, Nebraska

EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Debbie Kring at the address on the front of the fact sheet, or call 913-551-7003 or 1-800-223-0425.